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NEW YEAR BRIGHT WITH PROMISE

Torrance Masons Will Install Officers at Ceremony Jan. 5

BUILDING IN 1926 BRISK

Permits for Year \$160,183 Higher Than During the Preceding 12 Months
83 DWELLINGS ERECTED
Issue Papers for Two Fine New Homes on Post Avenue

Building in Torrance in 1926 exceeded that of 1925 by \$160,183, permit records at the city hall show.

During 1926 permits for construction valued at \$517,788 were issued, as against those aggregating a value of \$357,605 during 1925.

The record this year is considered exceptionally good in view of the fact that for the first eight months of the year construction was at a low ebb.

During the fall and winter months building activity here took a decided spurt, particularly in the construction of dwellings.

During the year permits were issued for 83 dwellings, five industrial buildings, and five business blocks.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett said today that during the past 60 days he has received more requests for municipal search than during any equal period of time in the history of Torrance as a city. This indicates that building activities will be unusually brisk during 1927.

Recent permits received at the city hall are as follows: Dean Perkins, 1506 Madrid, four-room house, \$2000; Torrance Laundry, Border avenue, boiler room, \$3000; International Derrick and Equipment Company, Carson street, galvanized iron building and steel crane, \$3000; this company will soon erect a large factory building in addition to that listed above; Pueblo Land Company, 34 Harriet street, alter two duplexes, \$1800 each, W. L. Reeve contractor; W. J. McNamara, 1626 Cedar avenue, two five-room stucco dwellings and garages, \$2950 each; Donald L. Crabbe, 1612 Post avenue, two five-room stucco dwellings and garages, \$5850 each.

Torrance Growth Is Revealed by Phone Increase

Local Exchange Sees 10.25 Percent Addition During Past Year
Torrance has had 54 new telephones added in its exchange since the first of January, a 10.25 percent gain, according to Fred W. Smith, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. At present Torrance has 581 telephones.

"A fact which seldom occurs to the telephone user when he considers the growth of a telephone exchange," commented Manager Smith, "is that the larger the exchange becomes the greater is the service we offer to the subscribers in that exchange. For that reason every one of our subscribers is vitally interested in the growth of the exchange in which he obtains his service."

BILL THE BARBER SAYS
I JUST HEARD A MAN SAY TO HIS CLOTHIER, 'WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN MENS TROUSERS THIS SEASON?' 'NO, NOT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS'



Samuel E. Burke, Grand Master in 1921 and 1922. Will Be the Installing Officer at the Masonic Ceremony Jan. 5.



John H. Fess Will Retire From Office After a Successful Year as Worshipful Master of Torrance Lodge.



John R. Guyan Will Take Office as Worshipful Master for 1927.

RITUAL TO PUBLIC EVENT

Torrance Lodge Prepares for Annual Ceremony Next Wednesday
LODGE HISTORY IS TOLD
Attractive Booklet Distributed as Souvenir by Local Order

Public installation of the 1927 officers of Torrance Lodge No. 447, F. & A. M., will take place at the Masonic Temple on Wednesday night, Jan. 5.

Samuel E. Burke, grand master in 1921-1922, will be the installing officer. The following officers will be installed: John Robertson Guyan, worshipful master; John Edward McMaster, senior warden; Ernest Noah Tomkins, junior warden; Joseph Frederick Stone, treasurer; William Harold Stanger, secretary; Jesse Howard Sprout, chaplain; Hugh Ruthus Seckler, senior deacon; Walker Warren West, junior deacon; Ben Olson, marshal; John Oscar Bartz, senior steward; Frank Whitfield DeWitt, junior steward; Joe Ray, tiler; Clarence M. Good, district inspector.

The Torrance lodge this year distributed unusually attractive booklets announcing the installation and reciting the history of the lodge.

Lodge History Told
A brief history of Torrance Lodge No. 447, F. & A. M., as prepared by William H. Stanger, follows:

"On Friday, Oct. 13, 1913, the following 13 Master Masons in good standing assembled at the 'Assembly Hall' in Torrance for the purpose of taking the necessary measures to establish a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Torrance: Roy Oliver Denison, Harry Mellville Thomas, James Wallace Post, Clarence Everett Butts, William Carl Winkler, Richard Robertson Smith, Chester Augustus Paxman, Ernest Ulrich Keller, Karl Rollo Andre, Herman Burmaster, Harry Abraham Marx, Norman Augustus Leake, Joseph Frederick Stone.

Decide on Name
"It was at this meeting that the name Torrance was decided upon for the name of the proposed new lodge. The selection of officers to be named in the petition to Grand Lodge for dispensation was a follows: Bro. Roy Oliver Denison, worshipful master; Bro. Richard Robertson Smith, senior warden; Bro. Harry Abraham Marx, junior warden.

"Bros. Roy Denison, C. A. Paxman and R. R. Smith prepared the petition sent to the grand master, John Douglas Murphy, and on the 4th day of May, 1914, the dispensation was granted.

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Blaze Destroys Garage; Firemen Save Two Homes

Combustion Believed Cause of Fire at 1670 Gramercy Avenue

Fire, believed to have started by spontaneous combustion, last Thursday afternoon destroyed the garage behind the house at 1670 Gramercy avenue. The house and garage are owned by Mrs. Matilda Winters and occupied by W. C. Andrus. In the garage Mr. Andrus had stored paints and oils, in which the fire is believed to have started. The volunteer fire department responded to the call and did good work in preventing the blaze from spreading to the house and the adjacent dwelling of Harry Bale.

Let us help you plan your next building. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

Observations

Sportsmanship—The Old God Ra and the New Invention, Radio—The Tradition of Words—The Monroe Doctrine—1927 and the West
By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

THE approach of the Stanford-Alabama football game at the Rose Bowl Saturday recalls last year's contest between the Southwestern and the University of Washington—probably as thrilling a football game as ever graced a gridiron.

However, it isn't about the contest but concerning attendant events that this is being written. When Alabama came back in the second half and with an irresistible dash swept over for three touchdowns the great throng roared and roared its approval. The tremendous fervor of the crowd arose from the human instinct to applaud the winning under-dog. But the Washington coach and team took it as an insult to them. As a result a bitter bad feeling was generated.

It seems that such an aftermath would be impossible this year. The crowd will give Alabama a fine welcome—as it should. The people of the Coast wish to impress visitors with a spirit of hospitality—even though most of us would like to see a Coast football team win every year. Western cheers for Alabama will not indicate Western dislike for Stanford. And pre-game amenities between the two teams indicate that the Stanford men will so interpret the welcome. In a pleasing fashion the coaches and members of the two teams have exchanged courtesies. They have met as gentlemen should meet before an honorable contest.

AND they will play the game as gentlemen should—fiercely, but fairly. And let it be hoped, as it safely may be, that any cheers from the crowd for either team in success will be accepted as gentlemen should accept them. Last year Washington was disgraced in defeat—disgraced by bad grace.

Alabama and Stanford are truly great football teams. A truly great football team is a team that owns the spirit of good sportsmanship. Good sports are good sports in defeat. In short, good sports are gentlemen.

SOMEbody has said that if he were to choose one book to take to a desert island he would take the dictionary. The choice seems wise. It is fun to study the dictionary, particularly if you are interested in the derivations of words.

In this connection it is interesting to consider that the most wonderful modern invention takes its name from one of the world's most ancient gods.

CROSS-WORD puzzle fans will remember the Egyptian sun god Ra. The same people that worshipped this heavenly deity originated the science of geometry. Because the sun sends its beams out in all directions from the center the line from the center of a circle to a circumference became a ray. And so Ra became the root of the Latin radius and the French ray. English adopted the root for radiate, radius, and ray. The name of the old Egyptian god, Ra, thus was woven into the fabric of modern words expressing lines going out from one point in all directions. Hence when wireless was discovered it became known as radio.

So the old Sun God has served humanity long after he has been discarded as a deity. The root ra still retains its meaning unswayed. Ra, the god, radiates his beams. Radio radiates its waves. Thus is a fine new invention indebted to an old religion for a name and the significance of an old god perpetuated in modern science.

ALL words have not been so fortunate. Consider the word holiday. Originally the word was holy day—indicating a date designated by the Church as the anniversary of the birth of some saint or some other event of Christian significance.

Apparently persons of former days were as little prone to observe holy days with seriousness as are we of today. For soon they began to use the word holiday for any day on which routine duties were temporarily set aside.

A holiday now is any day on which folks don't work. In England a holiday is a vacation. When an Englishman goes to the beach for two weeks he is taking his holiday.

The only holidays in keeping with the original meaning of the word and observed by all in the country are Christmas and Easter.

THE old Monroe doctrine gets us into plenty of trouble. Whenever a revolution stirs one of the Central or South American republics we refuse to allow European nations to interfere. When their nationals or ours are endangered we land our own forces. This makes no friends in Central and South America for us. Yet it seems wise to continue the policy. We want no European armies and navies on this side of the Atlantic. Neither do the Latin-Americans. And the more advanced nations in South America are showing signs of approval for the Monroe doctrine. The day will come when the nations of North, South and Central America will constitute a league of nations in themselves. But when they do it will be because of affairs on the Pacific and not across the Atlantic. Meantime we must bear the abuse showered on us for landing forces in such places as Haiti and Nicaragua.

NINETEEN-TWENTY-SEVEN is upon us. It promises to be a year of great importance to the whole west. Probably the most encouraging sign on the horizon is that which presages the end of the bickering over the Colorado River development and the coming of the legislation which will precede actual work on the Boulder dam.

The west is not all won yet. The Boulder dam will transform land larger in area than most European countries. It will provide power to turn the wheels of the mills that before long will supply all the people of the Pacific with fabricated goods.

THE great American desert will some day be the larder of the United States. When men build dams that remove the gamble of rainfall in a land where the sun shines warmly all year around, they build a new empire. The great American desert will some day be the great American food basket.

If the Boulder dam legislation is passed in 1927, the year will mark the greatest move in the winning of the west yet recorded.

One Man Hurt in Series of Mishaps

In a series of holiday traffic accidents in Torrance, V. Stocko was the only person severely injured. He was struck by an automobile driven by C. E. Fix at Arlington avenue and Camino Real last Friday night. Stocko's ankle was broken and he sustained bruises. He was walking almost in the middle of the road and another car with bright headlights impaired Mr. Fix's vision. Mr. Fix took the man to the emergency hospital in Lomita. Witnesses declared the accident no fault of the driver. A number of bumped fenders and broken wheels were recorded, but no one was seriously injured.

Shrine Club Will Install Officers Here January 10

The El Rightem Shrine Club will hold its annual meeting in Torrance on Monday night, Jan. 10, at the Women's Clubhouse. The affair will be a dinner dance. Officers will be installed, including Rufus Page, president, and L. B. Kelsey, secretary.

WOMAN ARRESTED

Rosa Garcia was arrested at the Pueblo Christmas eve by Chief Calder and Officer Stroh and charged with possession of liquor. A gallon of whiskey was confiscated.

Industrial Growth During 1927 Will Boom Whole Area

Columbia Steel, Derrick Company, Glass Factory, and Santa Fe Programs Due for Completion During Twelve Months Just Ahead

BUILDING OF HOUSES TO RECEIVE BIG IMPETUS

Many New Industries Looking Toward Harbor for New Locations and Are Considering Locations in This District With Favor

Forecasts for 1927 are bright with the promise of unprecedented growth and development in this district.

A survey of developments scheduled for completion during the approaching year shows that:

- 1—The Columbia Steel will complete its \$2,000,000 sheet mill in Torrance by June, providing employment for 400 men, 90 percent of whom will be skilled.
- 2—The International Derrick and Equipment Company of California will complete its fabricating mill, to employ 100 men.
- 3—The Torrance Flat Glass Company will begin operations about Jan. 15 with 200 men on the payroll, a large number of orders on hand, and assurance of continued production.
- 4—The Santa Fe Railroad Company early in 1927 will start laying spur tracks and installing utilities in its industrial tract in Torrance.
- 5—The Mineral Wool Products Company (Woolbestos) is expected to increase its output early in 1927, providing work for a number more men.
- 6—Dwelling house construction all over the district is slated for a big increase with the start of the new year.
- 7—Columbia Steel, International Derrick, and dwelling construction work will provide plenty of employment for men of the building trades.
- 8—The Shell refinery east of Torrance will be completed during the year.
- 9—The United Concrete Pipe Company's new plant on East road will be operating within a short time, providing employment for about 200 men.
- 10—Never in the history of the harbor district have so many industries started investigation of the advantages of the Torrance area for factory sites, and a number of substantial industries are favorably considering location either in Torrance or immediately adjacent to the city.
- 11—The Hollywood-Palos Verdes parkway will be started during the year, it is confidently predicted by county officials.
- 12—The trunk sewer to serve Torrance and Lomita will be completed by Midsummer.
- 13—New gymnasium and high school addition will be completed.

'Reverse English' Santa Claus Enters Four Homes Christmas Eve; Steals Jewelry Worth \$145

A Santa Claus with the reverse English visited four homes in Torrance on Christmas eve while occupants were absent and instead of leaving gifts stole articles of jewelry valued in the aggregate at about \$145.

The following homes were entered:

- Floyd E. Gill, 1634 Amapola avenue.
- J. C. Smith, El Prado and Arlington.
- V. D. Hollister, 9403 Amapola.
- Charles Smith, 9 Park Terrace, Cravens avenue.

Occupants of all the homes entered were absent when the thief entered. In each case he broke through a window.

James Leech, manager of the Bank of America here, believes that he frightened the thief away from the Gill home. Mr. Leech had left presents for his children in the Gill home and Mr. Gill had given him the key to the house. Mr. Leech went after the presents and discovered that the house had been entered. Mr. Gill reported the following articles missing: five rings, two watches, and one gold locket, with an aggregate value of \$75.

Nothing was taken from the J. C. Smith home. W. L. Booth, who lives next door, reported having seen a man in the neighborhood, and provided police with a good description of him.

At the Hollister home the thief stole a watch and other small articles of jewelry, valued at \$35.

A number of pieces of jewelry of little value were taken from the Charles Smith home.

Police declare that footprints around each house showed that the same man entered all four homes. He wore a No. 9 shoe.

It is estimated that all the robberies took place between 7 and 9 o'clock. Mrs. Charles Smith was absent from 6 to 7:30, and found on her return that the house had been entered.

Women's Club Will Hear Mrs. Eastland

Mrs. George Eastland of Hollywood, first vice-president of the Mothers' Educational Center, will give a short talk at the Women's Club Wednesday afternoon. American and Herman Hadler will give a violin duet. They will be accompanied by Mrs. Raymond Shuart on the piano.

The program will be in charge of the child welfare committee. This is the regular business meeting of the club, and at the close of the business session a social half hour will be enjoyed.

Hot Slag Dumped Into Puddle Cause of Big Noise Here

The explosion report that echoed through Torrance Tuesday morning was not an explosion at all, but the report made when a large pile of hot slag was dumped into a puddle of water near a slag pile in the yards of the Columbia Steel Corporation. Employees of the steel plant knew that the shock would occur, and every precaution was taken to prevent an accident.

Lomita Masons Will Seat New Board Tuesday

1927 Officers Will Be Installed at Narbonne Ave. Hall

District Inspector Anderson will install the officers-elect of Lomita Lodge No. 544, F. & A. M., at an open ceremony next Tuesday evening, Jan. 4, in Masonic Hall, Narbonne avenue.

The following officers will be seated: Roy Winters, master; John Glenn Wilson, senior warden; Edward Andrew Perkins, junior warden; Llewellyn John Hunter, treasurer; Edgar Shaw Harvey, secretary; Thomas Sidebotham, chaplain; Arthur Garfield Plumb, senior deacon; Barron Archer Beckham, junior deacon; Norman Percy Herr, marshal; Leslie Maur McClary, senior steward; Alfred Moore McDonald, junior steward; Tom Wilkey, tiler.

Mrs. Agnes Gammell of Martini street is recovering from an illness of several days' duration.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Scott were holiday and weekend guests of former neighbors in El Centro.